OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY MAYOR FOR PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY (NOFA)

FY2026 Rhode Island Avenue Support Grant Program

This notice supersedes the notice published in the DC Register on May 1, 2026

Request for applications (RFA) Release Date: Friday, May, 15, 2026

RFA ID No: FY26-BD-LO-RIASGP

Introduction: The Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development ("**DMPED**") invites the submission of applications from qualified organizations for a grant under the Rhode Island Avenue Support Grant Program ("**Program**"). The purpose of the Program is to provide grants to support small businesses that (1) have or sign a long-term leases of at least five years in the Rhode Island Avenue corridor in the District of Columbia ("**District**"), and (2) offer services or activities that strengthen community connections and attract foot traffic to the neighborhood.

The funding opportunity will provide up to $350,000 in total grant funding in FY26 to eligible businesses to (1) offset the costs of rent, or (2) complete tenant improvements.

Authority: The Program will be funded pursuant to the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development Limited Grant-Making Authority Act of 2012, effective September 20, 2012 (D.C. Law 19-169; D.C. Official Code §1-328.04(ii)), as amended by the "Rhode Island Avenue Corridor Long-Term Lease Adjustment Emergency Amendment Act of 2026," enacted March 2, 2026 (D.C. Act 26-272) or any subsequent temporary or permanent legislation.

Anticipated Number of Awards: DMPED expects to award multiple grants under the Program, in an aggregate amount of up $350,000, contingent on the availability of an appropriated budget in such amount. Awards are anticipated to range from $10,000 to $100,000. Successful applicants may receive the awarded amount in the form of a one-time payment, subject to the availability of funds, successful certification of an active lease, and compliance with the terms and conditions of a grant agreement.

Eligibility: Applicants must meet the following eligibility criteria to be considered for an award under the Program:

- Be registered as a for-profit or not-for-profit entity in the District of Columbia;
- Be in good standing with the District of Columbia's Department of Licensing and Consumer Protection (DLCP), the Office of Tax and Revenue (OTR), and the Department of Employment Services (DOES);
- If the applicant is a for-profit entity, be registered as, or be eligible to be registered as, a certified business enterprise;
- Have fewer than 30 full-time employees;

- Sign or intend to sign a long-term lease of a commercial property (5 years or longer, with at least 3 years remaining on any active lease);
- Offer retail, educational programs, entertainment, food, or other services or activities that strengthen community connections and attract foot traffic to the Rhode Island Avenue Corridor, with a preference for food markets, grocery stores, or other fresh food access points; and
- Demonstrate that the property where the eligible business is or will be located is an eligible property located within the Rhode Island Avenue Corridor as show on the map here:
    - Rhode Island Avenue Grant Program Eligibility Area

Additional details about eligibility and criteria for selecting applicants will be included in the RFA.

Grant Information Session: DMPED will host a virtual and in-person information session for interested applicants. Please check DMPED's website for more details: https://dmped.dc.gov/service/grant-opportunities.

Contact Information: Tariq Sheriff **Phone:** (202) 727-6365 **Email:** bizdev@dc.gov

Availability of RFA: The RFA will be released on Friday, May 15, 2026 and posted at https://dmped.dc.gov/service/grant-opportunities.

Grant Application Submission Deadline: Applications will be accepted through ***Monday, July, 6, 2026*** at 4:00PM ET. All applications must be submitted electronically, according to the instructions contained in the RFA. Late applications will not be accepted.

Application Process: The grant application process will include an initial screening of applications to evaluate the completeness of the application, followed by scoring by a review panel, and a final approval of funding by the Deputy Mayor.

Final Determination of Award: DMPED anticipates completing the application review within forty-five (45) days after the application submission deadline. Award and funding determinations are final and cannot be appealed. The Deputy Mayor will make the final funding decision, based on a review panel's recommendations, the Mayor's budget priorities, the available resources, the goal of achieving a balance as to communities served, and the goals of the Program.

Reservations: DMPED reserves the right to issue addenda and/or amendments subsequent to the issuance of the NOFA or RFA, or it may rescind the NOFA or RFA at any time in its sole discretion.